

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 /079 W
-----067766 271922Z /50

R 270901Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8344
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
COMICEDEFOR KEFLAVIK IC

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 0565

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, IC
SUBJECT: INTRAPARTY FIGHTING CONTINUES IN PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE

REF: REYKJAVIK 0476

1. DIVISIONS WITHIN PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE (PA) HAVE NOT
HEALED BUT HAVE BECOME DEEPER IN RECENT WEEKS. SNORRI
JONSSON, ACTING PRESIDENT OF ICELANDIC FEDERATION OF
LABOR, RESIGNED FROM PA NOMINATING COMMITTEE IN DISPUTE
OVER PARTY LIST IN REYKJAVIK CONSTITUENCY. PARTY
MEETING APRIL 15 WHICH WAS SUPPOSED TO RESULT IN FINAL
LIST ENDED IN CONFLICT WITH NO DECISION ON WHO WILL
HEAD PA SLATE IN COUNTRY'S MOST IMPORTANT CONSTITUENCY.

2. BATTLE FOR TOP SPOT ON PA REYKJAVIK LIST CENTERS
ON TWO PERSONALITIES AND TWO PHILOSOPHIES. SVAVAR GESTSSON,
EDITOR OF PARTY DAILY THODVILJINN, WAS THOUGHT TO HAVE
NOMINATION SEWED UP, AND HE STILL AS INSIDE
TRACK. HOWEVER, LABOR WING OF PARTY, ARGUING THAT
"INTELLECTUALS" HAVE TOO MUCH INFLUENCE, IS SEEKING
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NOMINATION FOR ASMUNDUR STEFANSSON, ECONOMIST OF IFL.
ALTHOUGH GESTSSON IS CONSIDERED A COMMUNIST WHILE
STEFANSSON IS NOT, THIS HAS NOT OVERTLY PLAYED PART
IN DISPUTE. INSTEAD, LABOR WING MAINTAINS (ACCURATELY)
THAT IT IS UNDERREPRESENTED AND FEELS THAT PA SHOULD
GO INTO ELECTIONS WITH LABOR-AFFILIATED CANDIDATE ON
TOP.

3. ANOTHER ASPECT OF PA INTRAMURAL FIGHTING CONCERNS POSSIBILITY OF COOPERATION WITH INDEPENDENCE PARTY (IP) FOLLOWING JUNE 25 NATIONAL ELECTION. DEBATE ERUPTED IN PUBLIC RECENTLY FOLLOWING PUBLICATION IN "MAL OG MENNING", LEFTIST QUARTERLY DEALING WITH POLITICAL, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL ISSUES, OF ARTICLE BY ITS EDITOR IN WHICH HE EXPLORED POSSIBILITY OF IP-PA COALITION. PA CHAIRMAN LUDVIK JOSEFSSON SHARPLY ATTACKED ARTICLE IN THJODVILJINN, BUT SUBJECT HAS NOT BEEN LAID TO REST WITHIN PARTY. OLAFUR RAGNAR GRIMSSON, HEAD OF UNIVERSITY POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT, IS THOUGHT TO BE PROPONENT OF PA-IP COOPERATION AND THIS IS CITED AS ONE FACTOR IN HOLDING UP HIS NOMINATION FOR A PLACE ON PARTY'S REYKJAVIK LIST.

4. COMMENT. PARTY HAS UNTIL MAY 23 TO FILE FINAL LIST OF CANDIDATES, AND IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT IT MAY TAKE UNTIL THEN BEFORE PA RESOLVES PROBLEM. AS NOTED REFTEL, PA HAS CONSIDERABLE STRENGTHS AND HAS ALMOST FIRM HOLD ON VOTERS WHO SUPPORTED IT IN 1974 ELECTION. EXTENT OF PA GAINS, HOWEVER, BECOMES SOMEWHAT MORE QUESTIONABLE, AS FIGHTING CONTINUES WHILE ELECTION DAY DRAWS NEAR.
BLAKE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, POLITICAL PARTIES, PARTY SCHISMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978REYKJA00565
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780180-0900
Format: TEL
From: REYKJAVIK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978049/aaaaahjn.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ba05eeb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 REYKJAVIK 476
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3067255
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INTRAPARTY FIGHTING CONTINUES IN PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, IC, PA, IFL
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ba05eeb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014